

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is not only a requirement of the TMDL process, but is essential to its success. At a minimum, the public must be allowed at least 30 days to review and comment prior to establishing a TMDL. Also, EPA must provide a summary of all public comments and responses to those comments to indicate how the comments were considered in the final decision.

Multiple public meetings have been provided throughout all stages of the project to inform and update the public on all aspects of the project as it evolved. The public was encouraged to participate in data collection efforts and provide comments on a report of the data review and proposed TMDL methodology prior to TMDL development.

A first draft of the *Bacteria and Sediment TMDL Under High-Flow Conditions for Christina River Basin, Pennsylvania-Delaware-Maryland* was open for public comment on January 20, 2005. On January 6, 2005, a public meeting was held at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Two additional public meetings were held on February 10, 2005, in Newark, Delaware, and February 17, 2005, in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Following the public comment period, the Christina River Basin Watershed and receiving water models used for development of the bacteria and sediment TMDLs were revised to address the concerns of stakeholders.

For these revised TMDLs EPA held one informational meeting to present details and answer questions regarding the Christina River TMDLs on February 3, 2006, from 9 am to noon in the Red Clay Room, 423 Dalmatian Street, Kennett Square, Pa. 19348. Public notice announcements were published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on January 20, 2006, and in the *Wilmington News-Journal* on January 20, 2006. The public notice announcement was also put on the EPA Region III, together with all relevant documents.